

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 018889 TOSEC 010260

EXDIS

FOL RPT AMMAN 0375 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS

TEL AVIV 24 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0375

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO US LE SY XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE KING ON LEBANON

REF: SECTO 10165

SUMMARY: PASSED ON TO KING SECRETARY'S MESSAGE REGARDING  
APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON HIS TALKS IN AMASCUS  
OUR NEGATIVE REACTION TO IDEA OF JORDAN-SYRIA GUARANTEE  
FORCE FOR LEBANON, AND FOR UR INTEREST IN KEEPING IN  
TOUCH(REFTEL) KING REPORTED THAT ASAD SEEMED TO BE MORE RELAXED  
THAT SYRIANS WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO WORK OUT  
BASIS FOR STABLE CEASEFIRE AND FOR SETTLEMENT  
IN LEBANON AND THAT PLO SEEMS TO BE COOPERATING WITH  
LEBANONESE AUTHORITIES AGAINST LOOTERS. KING PLANS

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HUMANITARIAN AID FOR LEBANON AS SOON AS ROADS ARE

OPEN. KING WOULD STILL LIKE TO KEEP OPEN IDEA OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE FOR LEBANON IN SITUATION WHERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES MIGHT BE FORCECLOSED OR UNWORKABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. I WAS BACK IN TOUCH WITH KING JANUARY 24. AS IN STRUCTED REFTEL, I THANKSED HIM FOR HIS ACCOUNTS OF THE

PICTURE IN DAMASCUS SAID IT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION AND HAD ACCORDED WITH OUR INFORMATION. GIVEN FACT THAT SITUATION HAS MOVED ON SOMEWHAT I TOLD HIM THAT YOU HAD CONSIDERED THE IDEA OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE AND AT THE TIME IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN KING AND ME, IT LOOKED TO YOU AS AN IDEA HAVING EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL AND ONE THAT WOULD LEAD TO ISRAELI INTERVENTION. I REPEATED THAT OBVIOUSLY WE HAD DONE ALL WE COULD AS YOU HAD INDICATED PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO DAMASUS TO HOLD ISRAELIS BACK AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

2. THE KING INDICATED THAT HE HAD JUST TALKED WITH ASAD BY PHONE AGAIN. ASAD SEEMED TO BE MUCH MORE RELAXED ABOUT WHAT WAS HEPPENING. HE HAD HANDPICKED ALL OF THE SYRIANS PARTICIPATING IN WHAT I NOW UNDER STAND ARE 25 TEAMS TO OVERSEE AND CONTROL AREAS IN LEBANON OF SPECIFICALLY HIGH THREAT OF A NEW OUTBREAK. APPARENTLY THERE WILL BE THREE SYRIANS ON EACH OF THESE TEAMS. KING URGED AND ASAD PROMISED, TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL THAT SYRIANS ARE CHOSEN WHO CAN ACT WITH UNDERSTANDING IN THE PRESENT DIFFICULT SITUATION.

3. KING AND I EXCHANGED NOTES ON PRESENT SITUATION AND I DREW HEAVILY ON BEIRUT 0768(NOTAL) KING TOLD ME HAD HAS JUST HAD A CONFIRMED REPORT FROM HIS EMBASSY IN BEIRUT THAT PLO IS ACTING AGAINST LOOTING AND LOOTERS IN WESTERN PART OF CITY. THEY ARE TAKING SUMMARY ACTIONS AGAINST PROPERTY(VEHICLES) OF INDIVIDUAL LOOTING AND TURNING LOOTERS OVER TO LEBANESE OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER PUNISHMENT. THIS I TOLD HIM ACCORDED WITH SECRET

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OUR OWN INFORMATION.

4. KING SAID HE HAD READIED QUITE A LARGE AMOUNT OF HUMANITARIAN AID (MOSTLY FOOD AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE) IN RSPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM LEBANESE AUTHORITIES. AS ASSON AS ROADS WERE OPENED HE PLANNED TO SEND THE ASSISTANCE FORWARD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD GIVE MODERATE AMOUNT OF LOCAL

PUBLICITY TO THIS EFFORT IN THE HOPES OF STIMULATING OTHER ARAB STATES TO DO THE SAME-- "IF A SMALL STATE LIKE JORDAN COULD DO SO, PERHAPS OTHER WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE".

5. HE ADDED THAT CHAMOUN WAS STILL BEING DIFFICULT. HE WAS CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION BETWEEN CHAMOUN AND SYRIANS AND AT ONE POINT BOTH WERE REFUSING TO SEE EACH OTHER. HE SAID HE HAD INTERFERED AND AS A RESULT THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING BETWEEN KHADDAM AND CHAMOUN.

6. I WOULD UP THIS PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION BY TELLING KING WE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT AND THAT AS ALWAYS WE VALUED HIS THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS KING SAID HE WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PASS ON TO HIM. HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A JORDANIAN-SYRIAN GUARANTEE FORCE, AND HE WOULD ONLY DO SO IF THERE WERE NO OTHER WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THAT DID NOT LOOK NECESSARY NOW BUT HE WISHED TO RESERVE FINAL JUDGEMENT ON THE IDEA. LASTLY HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU HIS GREETING AND VERY BEST WISHES. PICKERING UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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